

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel Hubbard Bell, November 24, 1875, with transcript

18 Beacon St., - Nov. 24th, 1875. Dear Miss Mabel,

In one of your recent letters to me you said that your mother thought I had as many sides as a prism, and that you agreed with her in wondering what side I would show next!

I have just been thinking of all that has happened since then, and I fear that I have done nothing but startle you at every turn.

I wish with all my heart I could be a different being for your sake — but I cannot. Nature has made me what I am and it is not my fault that I have such strong feelings. I can restrain them but I cannot prevent them from arising.

I do not wish to conceal my failings from you — nor will I. But I do want you to feel (whatever defects you may see in my character) — that I have a very strong and sincere affection for you. You cannot know how deeply you have made your way into my heart. There is nothing in all the world I would not do for your sake — excepting a dishonourable action .

To forsake the work in which I am at present engaged — I believe would not only be dishonourable in me but unjust to my father. Please do not think I have not real love for you if I value my own good opinion above yours or your parents'.

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After the letter I wrote to your father last night — I am almost afraid to intrude myself on the family-circle tomorrow — for fear I should not be wanted.

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However that may be believe me you have my earnest and heartfelt wishes for your happiness both now and hereafter.

May you live to see many birthdays — and may they all be Days of Thanksgiving!

Yours very sincerely, A. Graham Bell. Miss Mabel G. Hubbard Brattle St. — Cambridge.